

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, April 8, 2008 6:00 p.m.
McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Roll Call:

Members Present: Toby Strout, Christine Glaser, John Hamilton, George Huntington, Jeff Mease, Cynthia Shultz, Bob Bent, Kent Berglund, Dave Rollo, Jim Sherman

Regrets: Steve Ashkin

Staff Present: Adam Wason, Francie Gary, Jenny Sumner

Call to Order/Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. The March minutes will be available at the May meeting for approval.

Public Comment

Steve Forrest announced that there will be a transportation charette sponsored by Bloomington Transit on Thursday, April 10th from 7-9 pm at the Monroe County Public Library. Steve suggested that BCOS develop a 1 page summary of improvement it would like to see. Typically these events are not well attended.

Steve Forrest also announced that Dr. Robert Bullard, a transportation expert looking at equity issues, would be speaking at IUPUI from 1-4 pm.

Chad Roeder, of Bloomington Pedal Power, spoke about his business. He runs a delivery service using bicycle transport. He is exploring the collection of downtown recycling, using bicycles to transport downtown recycling to a transfer station, where it could then be picked up by the MCSWD. He is talking with the Green Business Network. His website is: www.bloomingtonpedalpower.com.

Earth Cares Informational Report

Cynthia Shultz reported on the Earth Cares project in Bloomington. The group is composed of faith groups in Bloomington. Earth Cares provided a series of workshops on how to lower your carbon diet, using an easy to follow book. They are looking for a place to store documents online. BCOS approved this request.

Cynthia will look into getting more copies of the book.

Announcements

Jeff Mease reported seeing the film, "The Real Dirt on Farmer John" and recommends it.

Dave Rollo was on the community chat March 18th. There was a good response on global warming. Dave also reported that the Peak Oil Task Force is meeting every other week. The schedule is on the City's website.

Committee Reports

Sustainability Assessment Report- Jenny represented the SAR committee. The report is almost complete; however, it needs feedback from the commission and the SAR committee. Adam and Jenny will figure out a time that might work for people to meet to discuss the report. Jenny will send a copy of the draft report to the commission.

Cynthia questioned whether the report included action items or targets. The draft report does not have these items, as the SAR committee decided that Jenny's resources would be better spent producing the data and analysis.

Initiatives- The committee met last month and determined a set of ongoing efforts to continue, and brainstormed a list of possible new efforts. Ongoing efforts include the CFL campaign, with an increased focus on disposal and recycling, as well as a sustainability tour. In order to do the tour, a commission member needs to take charge to organize it. One suggestion for the tour is a sustainable building tour.

New efforts brainstormed include

1. Transportation summit
2. Local food event or collaboration
3. Go Green initiative, focused on voluntary business actions
4. Downtown recycling
5. Utilities- getting more information to people about their energy or water use.
6. Housing affordability
7. Peak Oil
8. GHG emissions group
9. Tree fund contributions.

Dave suggested two near term policy issues. First, looking at water use and the City's consideration of putting in a new pipeline. Pat Murphy has been invited to come. Dave doesn't know the timeline of the proposed new pipeline, but the rate increase would have to come through City Council for approval. Second, look at the transportation and peak oil issue.

Jim Sherman suggested looking at new home building and how to maximize energy efficiency. Adam noted that the City's new green building website does contain a list of contractors involved with this effort. Jim suggested working with developers. This may be a good topic for the next sustainability tour.

Education- Bob Bent reported that the May 15th energy forum will be on creating green interiors. It will be 7-8:30 pm at the Monroe County Public Library. The speaker is a LEED certified inspector who recently moved here from Chicago and has created a green interior for his new home.

The regular Home Construction seminars will be April 21 and May 22.

A Green Building Film Festival will be held April 26 and May 3 at the Monroe County Public Library.

Partnerships and Resources- This committee is no longer active.

Leadership Roles

Toby Strout suggested formalizing the process for choosing new leadership. It was determined that there should be a vote on the new leadership, as it has been over a year since a vote has taken place. Toby will chair the nominating committee, and George and Cynthia will contribute to the committee. The nominating committee will contact each member of BCOS to see if they would like to run, and then they will develop a slate of candidates to be voted on at the May BCOS meeting.

Staff Report

Adam reported on a very busy month. He met with Chad Roeder of Bloomington Pedal Power and has been working on downtown recycling solutions. He also met with Ann at the Herald Times to discuss the CFL campaign and green building efforts. Adam reported that the Chamber of Commerce, after speaking with Steve Ashkin, is considering a “Go Green” initiative. The advocacy committee will take up the issue, which will then be taken to the full board.

The Public Works department is completing an inventory of street lights. At the last Team Green meeting, a Service Corps fellow presented on the Energy Conservation Block Grants being proposed in Congress.

Toby Strout said she would again take up the project of creating a display about BCOS. Adam will send out the official logo, as well as logo use guidelines.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.